



CITY OF LONG BEACH

COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN

"... where the voices of youth matter"



MINUTES June 22, 2005

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Batton, Co-Chair, called the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children to order at 5:15 p.m., in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Senior Center. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Present:

Pierre Batton, Co-Chair

Rebecca Turrentine, Co-Chair

Sotheara Chhay

Marc Rothenberg

Fabian Gonzalez

Lou Santos

Jeanetta McAlpin

Chanel Suares

Lauren Perry

Chelsii Summerville

Jessica Quintana

Absent:

Helen Ingram (excused)

Mary Soth (excused)

Marty Isozaki (excused)

Victor Perez (excused)

Jon Meyer (excused)

Staff:

Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Andrew Romero, Youth Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Christina Santos, Research and Data Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Guests:

Cecile Walters, Neighborhood Services Bureau

Ollie Cigliano, Councilmember Lowenthal's Office

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commission Co-Chair Turrentine and seconded by Commissioner Suares to approve the May 25, 2005 Commission on Youth and Children minutes with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

III. **COMMENTS**

Commissioner Fabian Gonzalez resigned his post as he is attending Cal State University San Diego, and needs to be there by mid-July. Various Commissioners and staff wished him well, and Andrew Romero presented Commissioner Gonzalez with a parting gift.

Andrew Romero alerted the Commission that the California Governor and First Lady's conference on Women and Families is scheduled for October 27 at the Long Beach Convention Center. There are plans to invite 250 young women to attend free of charge and Mr. Romero will be getting copies of the application if anyone wishes to see him about attending.

Mr. Romero also discussed an upcoming casting call on June 24 for the film adaptation of the book *Freedom Writers* by Erin Gruwell.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

Cynthia Fogg discussed the new format for her monthly report and discussed her hopes for having all youth related activities within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and eventually all youth related activities within the City.

Ms. Fogg also handed out the schedule of Summer Mobile Recreation sites in case any Commissioners wished to attend, or check out the program. Likewise, she distributed a list of Summer Food sites and information on the Sports Illustrated Good Sports event on Saturday, June 25.

Cynthia Fogg discussed the Commission composition, and particularly made sure the Commissioners were aware that some of their number had resigned. She indicated which Commissioners that recently resigned and discussed which of them have replacements pending. They hope to have the Mayor confirm these replacements as soon as possible.

The City Attorney's Office has volunteered Donna Gwin, from their offices, to act as legal counsel to the Commission. This should assist in some of the procedural issues before City Council. Cynthia Fogg will now be meeting with Donna Gwin shortly after each Commission meeting.

Senator Alan Lowenthal's office has sent the Commission some booklets entitled *A Citizen's Guide to Lobbying* that they thought would be of use to the Commissioners.

Additionally, Cynthia Fogg handed out some pages from the Youth Policy Action Center website. They are attempting to ensure the Commission agenda is led more by the Commission than staff, and felt that these pages would be of assistance. Ms. Fogg hopes to set up an event at the next Commission meeting to get a feel for what issues the Commission would like to address. She discussed issues youth programs in other cities throughout the nation to give the Commission an idea of what else is going on.

Andrew Romero discussed the CSULB Community Forum Planning Committee that Commissioner Perry had been involved with last year. Mr. Romero is now involved in the planning for the next forum, and will be briefing the Commission on what will be occurring. They will be a planning session soon, and Mr. Romero promised to keep the Commission involved.

Finally, Cynthia Fogg discussed the Promise For Youth, which is an initiative started by Colin Powell. They are now having a campaign to select the 100 best communities for young people. Mayor O'Neill would like the City of Long Beach to apply. Cynthia Fogg would like to get some youth voices involved in the application process.

V. CO-CHAIRS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

The Co-chairs both took some time to congratulate all of the High School class of 2005 graduates for their work in finishing High School. They also thanked Commissioner Gonzalez for his work on the Commission.

Co-Chair Turrentine discussed the Long Beach Youth Fund award dinner and talked about how she thought that everything had been very well done. She thanked all those Commissioners who were able to attend for doing so.

Co-Chair Turrentine briefed the Commission on her recent meeting with Councilmember Colonna, specifically with regards to the Commission's recommendations to Council.

Co-Chair Turrentine also pointed out that the date and time for the Executive Committee meetings will now be listed in the agenda so that any Commissioners who wish to attend may do so.

VI. REPORTS

a. Committees

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Commissioners Turrentine and Batton, Co-Chairs

(8 June 05)

Due to Commissioner Suarez resigning her position due to moving out of Long Beach, the CYC Executive Committee needed an additional member.

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner McAlpin to approve the appointment of Commissioner Lauren Perry to the Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

II. PROFILE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Suspended until the City Council rules on the Annual Report Recommendation that the project be continued.

III. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE Committee Co-Chairs Chhay and McAlpin

The Committee discussed the possibility of making buttons and T-shirts for the Commission, including the tagline. They hope to have at least some of this available by August for the California League of Cities conference.

They also began preliminary discussion of the Mayoral Candidates Forum, and the possibility of meeting with Co-Chair Batton to discuss T-shirt design.

b. Standing Items

I. Education and Youth Strategic Plan

There were no comments on the plan at this meeting.

II. District Level Youth Advisory Councils

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of having Commissioners address High School Government and History classes to increase awareness of the Commission and the DLYACs. It was suggested that a further presentation on the DLYACs be made to LBUSD faculty meetings.

III. Report on DLYAC meetings

Andrew Romero and the various youth Commissioners present reported on the following schedules for the District Level Youth Advisory Councils.

District 1 Did Not Meet

District 2 Did Not Meet

District 3 Met briefly for end of year party.

District 4 Did Not Meet

District 5 Did Not Meet

District 6 Did Not Meet

District 7 Did Not Meet

District 8 Worked on presentation showing all the beautification events they have worked on in the last year.

District 9 Had a clean-up event and discussed summer plans.

IV. Youth and Gang Violence Task Force (June 13)

Discussed a retreat for Saturday, August 6, and also discussed a job fair, and a recording of a segment of the Enough is Enough video was shown. Mike Gilette, the Chair of the Task Force, resigned. Commissioner Rothenberg will remain Vice Chair, and an interim chair, Dr. Lydia Holly, was appointed. The Task Force will not be meeting in July.

V. Long Beach Youth Fund

Andrew Romero discussed the award dinner, where approximately \$14,000 was distributed to various applicants. Mr. Romero is still assembling the composition of the at-large members for the next cycle of the Youth Fund. He is however, now looking to solicit funding for the program via Partners of Parks. Thus far, the Youth Fund has received \$5,000 from the Miller Foundation. Commissioner Chhay offered the opinion that, "The Long Beach Youth Fund opens a doorway of opportunity for youth with it's positive action."

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner McAlpin to authorize staff to solicit funding, through Partners of Parks, for the Youth Fund 2006 funding cycle. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming –

Outgoing –

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Workshops for CYC (May 26th, 04)

Awaiting response on proposal for producing an in-house DLYAC handbook and utilizing the rest of the contract to assist in the proposed Mayoral Forum during the upcoming Mayoral elections..

b. Harbor Commission.

c. CYC Annual Report, January 04-December 04, including the *Profile of Long Beach Youth and Children*

Pending response from the Council's Economic Development and Finance Committee and the City Council at large. Superintendent Fogg will be meeting with the City Manager in July and will have more information at the next meeting.

d. Children's Day Referral – Discussed Children's Day and draft letter to City Council. Information requested of the program director was not received by their deadline, and there was some discussion as to whether the hosting of a Non-Profit event fell within the purview or bailiwick of the Commission in it's role as an advisory body to the City Council. It was suggest that a letter capturing these ideas be drafted, to be approved at the next meeting and delivered to the City Council.

It was moved by Commissioner Rothenberg and seconded by Commissioner Perry to authorize staff to draft letter regarding City Council Referral. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mayoral Candidate Forum There was extended discussion on the possibility of the Commission hosting a Mayoral Candidate Forum where youth can raise their concerns to candidates in the upcoming Mayoral Candidates. Mr. Romero distributed some comments and ideas from similar forums run in other cities. A variety of formats and potential questions for the candidates were discussed.

Discussion on the candidates, and previous Mayors led to the Commissioners questioning how candidates were nominated.

It was moved by Commissioner Chhay and seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to approve Commission support of the Mayoral Candidate Forum and to create a Committee to plan the proposed event. The motion carried unanimously.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 27, at 5:00 p.m.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Chhay and seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children at 6:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**This information is available in an alternative format by request
to Jane Grobaty at (562) 570-3232.**

**The City of Long Beach intends to provide reasonable accommodations in
accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a special
accommodation is desired, please call Daniel Hendricks
48 hours prior to the meeting, at (562) 570-3538.**